

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2426

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STUTTGART 0389

USIA FOR SABLOSKY/IWE AND GILLESPIE/ICS

BONN FOR USIS/BAKER

USIAC

1. REACTION SONNENFELDT ED EXTREMELY POSITIVE. PANEL PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE COMMENTED TO CONGEN AND USIS STAFFERS DURING RECEPTION FOLLOWING PROGRAM AND SUBSEQUENTLY THAT IT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR TIMELY, USEFUL, AND INFORMATIVE EXCHANGE. PROGRAM PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN PUTTING IN PERSPECTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE NATURE OF U.S. SHORT AND LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO EUROPE AND NATO. SONNENFELDT ALSO EARNED HIGH MARKS IN STRESSING VITAL IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-FRG PARTNERSHIP AND REASONS FOR CONTINUED NEED FOR U.S. TROOP PRESENCE.

2. CONGEN BELIEVES DIALOGUE WILL HAVE IMPORTANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON FUTURE LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE DEALING WITH BROAD RANGE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND AMERICAN ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN A RESPONSIBLE AND CREDIBLE WORLD POWER.

3. SONNENFELDT COMMENTS ON CONSEQUENCES OF ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO AND REASSURANCES ON CONTINUED DELIVERY OF URANIUM, AS
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REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION IN EASING

LOCAL CONCERNS ON THESE ISSUES.

4. PANELIST VON GLOBIG, CHIEF POLITICAL EDITOR OF "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG" (LEADING NEWSPAPER IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG), TOLD US HE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY SONNENFELDT'S STRONG STATEMENT OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO AND INTEREST IN GERMANY. PANELIST OFFENBACH, CHIEF POLITICAL EDITOR OF "STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN", TOLD BPAO APRIL 21 WH HE FOUND SONNENFELDT'S ANSWERS "SERIOUS AND SINCERE" WHICH HE SAID NOT ALWAYS THE CASE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS. OFFENBACH REQUESTED OUR TAPERECORDING OF ED TO HELP HIM PREPARE A FEATURE-TYPE ARTICLE WHICH HE SAID WOULD APPEAR LATER THIS WEEK.

5. "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG" ARTICLE ON ED APPEARED APRIL 17 AND EMPHASIZED SONNENFELDT'S COMMENTS ABOUT STRENGTH OF U.S. TIES TO EUROPE. "THE EVENTS IN VIETNAM WILL NOT IMPAIR THE DECISIVENESS OF THE U.S. TO DEFEND HER EUROPEAN ALLIES," SAID THE LEAD SENTENCE IN THE "ZEITUNG" ARTICLE.

6. "SUEDEUTSCHE RUNDFUNK", STUTTGART, AND "SUEDWESTFUNK", BADENBADEN, COVERED THE ED IN THEIR REGULAR AREA NEWS PROGRAMS APRIL 16. A DEUTSCHE PRESSE AGENTUR WIRE ITEM FROM WASHINGTON ANNOUNCING THE ED WAS CARRIED BY ONE STUTTGART SUBURBAN NEWSPAPER THAT WE KNOW OF, AND PRESUMABLY BY OTHERS AS WELL. U.S. FORCES RADIO ALSO CARRIED AT LEAST TWO REPORTS, INCLUDING TAPED COMMENTS BY SONNENFELDT.

7. CONSUL GENERAL JENKINS, WHO ACTED AS PROGRAM MODERATOR, ALSO BELIEVES PROGRAM VALUABLE IN MAINTAINING AND PROMOTING QUALITY DIALOGUE WITH INFLUENTIAL LOCAL MEDIA LEADERS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN AN ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE U.S. ROLE IN PROVIDING LEADERSHIP ON KEY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

8. FM FOLLOWS. UNDERSTAND USIS/BONN TO SEND IWE TAPE OF COMPLETE DIALOGUE.
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